

April 15, 1999

REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY CALLS INS HUBBING PLAN A SERIOUS THREAT TO IMMIGRANTS LEGAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today called the Immigration and Naturalization Services' (INS) proposed immigrant relocation plan, or "hubbing," a serious threat to the civil and legal rights of immigrants.

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□ The plan would move Mexicans, Central Americans and Caribbean nationals to Texas from 18 central states.□ All other immigrants in INS custody would be detained in Chicago.

□ In a letter to Dwayne Peterson, Acting Regional Director for the Central Region of the INS, Schakowsky wrote, "The proposed hubbing plan, which would detain and transport immigrants based on ethnicity, presents a serious threat to the civil rights of immigrants."

□ Schakowsky expressed deep concerns that the proposal would result in detainees not able to obtain legal counsel and access to witnesses and evidence.□ "This separation both from legal counsel and evidence that can only be obtained locally is a blatant violation of fundamental due process rights," Schakowsky wrote.

□ Schakowsky also wrote that the proposal would disproportionately affect asylum seekers and would have a "devastating impact on Chicago families and the Chicago immigrant community."□□